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to draw the bill. But how is it that this Tahsildar happened to draw it and an opportunity was given to him to misappropriate the amount?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" He is a special officer deputed for the special purpose of land acquisition."

Mufti Police for Avadi Congress Session.

* 1532 Q.—SRI K. T. SREEDHARAN (on behalf of Sri K. Moidu): Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Police personnel in mufti were employed to do the work of Congress volunteers during the Avadi session of the Congress?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No, Sir."

Local Fund Dispensary, Pennalurpet.

* 1533 Q.—SRI M. DHARMALINGAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the amount allotted to Pennalurpet Local Fund Dispensary in Tiruvallur taluk for medicine in 1954;

(b) whether any proposal is pending with the Government to provide accommodation and beds for in-patients; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to take over this Local Fund Dispensary by the Government?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Rs. 1,350.

" (b) & (c) No, Sir."

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that as there are two rivers on either side of this Local Fund Dispensary the people living in that area are not able to go out and get better accommodation and medical facilities and they are undergoing lot of difficulties? Therefore, will the Government consider the desirability of providing some beds and supplying proper medicines and equipment for this Dispensary before it is provincialized?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" This Local Fund Dispensarry is under the control of the Chingleput District Board. The hon. Member may address the President of the District Board on this matter."

Fall in prices of agricultural products.

* 1534 Q.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any communication from the Union Government to investigate into the causes of the steep fall in the prices of agricultural products in the State;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Government; and

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(c) what are the proposals made by this Government to the Union Government for ensuring fair prices for agricultural products in this State?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) The Government of India have not asked this Government to investigate into the causes of the fall in prices of agricultural products.

" (b) & (c) The Government of India have decided to take certain measures for averting a steep fall in the prices of agricultural products. They have allowed the export of rice from the country and have also reduced the export duty on rice from 20 per cent *ad valorem* to Re. 0–2–3 per maund. They have also decided to purchase from cultivators during the current Khariff season Jowar (cholam) at Rs. 5–8–0 per maund, bajra (cumbu) at Rs. 6 per maund and maize at Rs. 5–8–0 per maund from specified mundies in those areas where the prices fall below these levels. They have also liberalized the exports of commodities like cane jaggery, oilseeds, oils and oil-cakes, onions, chillies, etc., and have also reduced the export duty on some of these commodities. As regards rice, the Government of India have stated that although there has been some decline in the price of rice in the Madras State the stage has not been reached when the Government should start making purchases as they propose in the case of coarse grains, viz., jowar, bajra and maize. A fall in prices of paddy during the harvest season is inevitable and there are already signs of recovery. The Madras Government are watching the prices and have set up a small *ad hoc* Committee to review the prices every week. They have suggested to the Government of India that the Reserve Bank of India should be requested to instruct the banks and co-operatives to issue crop loans liberally so that prices may be stabilized. The Government of India have also been asked not to release Civil Supplies buffer stocks except on a replacement basis."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" In the long list of agricultural commodities—the prices of which have fallen and in regard to which the Government have taken steps I regret to note that pepper is not mentioned. May I know from the Hon. Minister why pepper, the price of which has tremendously fallen and which has adversely affected even its cultivation, has not been included in that list? May I know whether any steps are going to be taken by the Government to stabilise the price of pepper at a reasonable level? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I did not refer to any long list or exhaustive list. But I can assure the hon. Member that necessary attention will be bestowed on pepper also and the *ad hoc* committee which I referred to just now has been looking into the price of pepper also."

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SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" Since the lifting of the ban on the export of rice, is there any appreciable response from foreign countries for the supply of rice and if so, from which country the response was greater? Have the Government got any information in respect of that matter?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I am sorry I am not able to furnish such information to the hon. Member just now. But I may tell him that, after all, we are not exporting any large quantity of rice. The idea of export is only to create an atmosphere in the matter of checking the fall in prices."

SRI P. SELVARAJ :—" May I know whether the fall in prices is due to overproduction or due to lack of purchasing capacity?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It is due more to lack of purchasing capacity than to overproduction."

SRI M. P. SUBRAMANYAM :—" விவசாயிகள் உற்பத்தி செய்யும் பொருள்களின் விலை சரிந்து போவதைத் தடுப்பதற்கு பல வழிகளை சர்க்கார் செய்துகொண்டிருப்பதாகவும், சென்னை சர்க்கார் ஒரு அட்-ஹாக் கமிட்டியை நியமித்து வாரமொரு முறை விலைவாசிகளின் ஏற்றத்தாழ்வைக் கவனித்துவருவதாகவும் கூறினார். நாட்டில் தற்போது நிலவிவரும் விலைவாசிகள் அதிகப்படியானது என்று கருதுகிறதா, அல்லது குறைந்த விலை என்று கருதுகிறதா ? நியாய விலை என்று எந்த விலையை அரசாங்கம் நிர்ணயித்திருக்கிறது ? இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் விலையை உயர்த்தவேண்டுமென்று சர்க்கார் கருதுகிறதா ? அல்லது இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் விலை கீழே போகாமலிருக்கவேண்டுமென்று சர்க்கார் கருதுகிறதா ?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" பல்வேறு பொருள்களின் தற்கால விலையைப் பொறுத்து எது நியாயவிலை என்று நிர்ணயிக்கவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. சில பொருள்களின் விலை கீழே போகாதிருந்தால் போதுமா என்பதைக் கவனிக்கவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. Economic level கீழே போயிருந்தால் மேலும் உயர்த்துவதற்குப் பாடுபடவேண்டியிருக்கிறது."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, since 75 per cent of our rice-eating public are dependent upon the sale of paddy in the weekly markets, will the Hon. Minister see that any steps that he takes do not react harshly on the paddy-buying public and particularly the poorer section of our society?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I may assure the hon. Member that the Government will see that no such thing happens."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Coconut is the most important agricultural commodity produced in Malabar and the fall in the price of coconut is mainly due to the import of large quantity of copra and coconut oil from Ceylon. The Government of India are showing an unsympathetic attitude towards this issue, by liberalizing the import of copra and coconut oil from Ceylon and also reducing the import duty on them. Now the Government of Ceylon have also reduced the export duty on them, with the result

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the price of coconut here has fallen very heavily. Therefore, will this Government recommend to the Government of India to raise the import duty on Ceylon copra and coconut oil? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government will examine that aspect of the matter."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" மந்திரி அவர்கள் பதில்சொல்லும்போது, 'உற்பத்தி பெரிய அளவு அதிகரித்ததினால் விலைவாசி இறங்கிவிட்டதென்று சொல்லமுடியாது. மக்களுடைய வாங்கும் சக்தி குறைந்துவிட்டதினால்தான் விலைவாசி குறைந்திருக்கிறது' என்று கூறினார்கள். உள்நாட்டு மார்க்கெட்டை அபிவிருத்தி செய்வதற்கும், மக்களுடைய வாங்கும் சக்தி அதிகரிப்பதற்கும் சர்க்கார் என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க உத்தேசித்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்று மந்திரி அவர்கள் தெரிவிப்பார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, that is indeed a very large question and the hon. Member should not expect me to give an elaborate answer as to the ways in which the purchasing capacity should be increased? "

SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM :—" From some study of the situation in the North Arcot district, I can tell the Hon. Minister that any idea of purchasing foodgrains with a view to control prices, will benefit only middle-men. If the Government have any idea of purchasing any paddy at all, will they think of purchasing it from the producer on the threshing floor during the harvest season so that the benefit may go to him? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" That is not a practical proposition. The Government are constantly reviewing the position and whenever they feel it necessary they purchase and export it. Therefore, it would not be always practicable to purchase it during the harvest season direct from ryots."

SRI R. S. ARUMUGAM :—" விவசாய உற்பத்திப் பொருள் 8-50
களின் விலை குறைந்திருப்பது நாட்டிற்கே நல்லதுதானே. ஆகையால் a.m.
பாக்கிப் பொருள்களின் விலைகளைக் குறைப்பதற்கு சர்க்கார் ஏற்பாடு செய்வார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" விலை ஓரளவு குறைவதைப்பற்றி நாம் கவலைப்படக்கூடாது என்று நான் முன்பே கூறியிருக்கிறேன். அளவுக்குமேல் விலை குறைந்து விவசாயத்திற்குக் கட்டுப்படியாகாவிட்டால் சர்க்கார் தலையிட்டு அதை தவிர்க்க வேண்டும்."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" புஞ்சை தான்யங்களையும் நெல்லையும் ஒரு சில குறிப்பிட்ட சந்தர்ப்பங்களில் சர்க்கார் வாங்க உத்தேசித்திருப்பதாக மந்திரி அவர்கள் அறிவித்தார்கள். அப்படி வாங்கும்போது குறிப்பிட்ட வரம்பிற்கு உள்பட்டு நிலவரி செலுத்தும் சிறு நில விவசாயிகளிடமிருந்து வாங்க வேண்டும். பெரிய நிலப்பிரபுக்களிடமிருந்து வாங்கக்கூடாது என்பது என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயம். ஏனென்றால் பெரிய நிலப்பிரபுக்கள் தாங்களே தான்யங்களைத் தேக்கி வைத்திருந்து விற்பதற்கு வசதி உண்டு. எனவே சிறு நில விவசாயிகளிடமிருந்து மட்டும் தான்யங்களை வாங்குவதற்கு சர்க்கார் நடவடிக்கை எடுப்பார்களா ? "

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" கனம் எதிர்க் கட்சி உபத்தலைவர் கூறுகின்ற யோசனை ஏழை விவசாயிகளுக்கு நலன் அளிக்கக்கூடிய நல்ல யோசனைதான். ஒரு லட்சியத்தை வைத்துக்கொண்டு ஒரு காரியத்தைச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்றால் அதை வேறு வகையில் திருப்புவது கொஞ்சம் அசாத்தியமாக இருக்கும். விலை மிக அதிகமாகக் குறைகிறது. உடனே ஏற்றுமதி செய்தால் விலை சரிவை தவிர்க்கலாம் என்று அப்படிச் செய்யும்போது சிறு நிலச்சுவாந்தார்களிடமிருந்துதான் வாங்கவேண்டும் என்பதையெல்லாம் பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருப்பது அசாத்தியமாக இருக்கும் என்று நான் அஞ்சுகிறேன்."

Naduvannur bridge.

* 1535 *Q.*—SRI C. KUNHIRAMA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the construction of the Naduvannur bridge in Kurumbranad taluk, Malabar, has commenced ; and

(*b*) when the work is proposed to be completed?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (*a*) No, Sir. The work will be started in this season.

" (*b*) It is likely to be completed by March 1957."

Imperial Tobacco Company, Tiruvottiyur.

* 1536 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation from the workers' Union of the Imperial Tobacco Company, Tiruvottiyur, alleging victimisation of four workers ;

(*b*) whether conciliation was ordered ; and

(*c*) if so, what action has been taken by the Government on the report of the Conciliation Officer?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) & (*c*) Conciliation was held and the Government decided that there was no case for adjudication. The Union was informed accordingly."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, may I ask the Hon. Minister whenever any dispute comes and conciliation fails, whether the Government will, as a matter of policy, refer all such disputes for adjudication? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I am afraid I cannot give such an assurance. For instance, in this particular case, the Labour Officer examined the matter after conciliation. The Commissioner of Labour also examined it. They were all unanimous that there was no case for adjudication with reference to some of these disputes."